[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 4: Letters 31-40

[Letter 31]
[Back of Letter 31]
[Wm. H. Fowle Jr.
Baltimore Md
Dec 2. 1869
Offering
The Virgin + Child, Lucretia, + 2 Landscapes]
[in blue ink: Fowle Jr

[Front of Letter]
Baltimore 2nd Dec 1869.
W W. Corcoran Esq.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:
I have four (4) fine paintings which I am anxious to sell in order to raise enough money to commence business. They are “The Virgin & Child.” a copy from Murillo by an Italian artist. A “Lucretia,” and two (2~~θ~~) Landscapes by Salvator Rosa. The pictures were purchased for my father in Florence some twenty years since. I am very loth [sic] to part with them but am too poor to keep them. Mr D T. Beckham - No 36 . Pitt Str[?] Alex^{a} [sic: for Alexandria??] will be happy to show them to you. Or anyone you may send to look at them. Hoping that I may soon hear from you.
I remain, yr very obdt [sic obedient] serv^{t}
Wm H Fowle Jr
PO Box 295 [or 6?]
Baltimore

[Letter 32]

[Back of Letter 32]
in blue ink: [Gale]
In brown ink: [L.D.Gale
Dec. 24th "1869

_____
Offers marble bust of Late
Hon. Thomas H. Benton for
sale.
_____]

[Front of Letter 32]
On diagonal between brown pen lines: [Ans @ 27th]

W.W. Corcoran. Esq
My dear Sir,
I have at my house 471 E St corner 5th St a marble bust of the late Hon Thomas H. Benton, by Dr Horatio Stone the author of the statues of Hamilton, Hancock, & bust of Judge Taney [ie Roger B. Taney], now in the Capitol of the U.S.

This work has been highly approved by artists. The sculptor informed me that Senator Benton assured him
[Body of Letter 32]
that this bust is the only one ever modelled of him from life. I think it would be a valuable acquisition to the Gallery of Art established by your munificence in the City of Washington.

I advanced the funds to execute this work, which the artist afterwards transferred to me to meet the demands. It cost me about $2.000.

I shall be glad to have you call and see it.
Respectfully yours
L.D. Gale [note L resembles S in all instances of the name but author's name is Leonard see]

Washington D.C.
Dec 24th 1869

[Letter 33]
[Back of Letter 33]
In blue ink: [D'Aubigney]
In brown ink:
[E.T. D'Aubigney
[2 illegible words]
[Dec. 1869
Offers collection of paintings for sale -]

[Front of Letter 33]

113 East 14th St next Steinway[s?]
at Mrs Arnolds _ N York City
[Over written on diagonal through "York" in brown ink: Dec 27]

Dear Sirs
May I offer for yr consideration, a fine collection of gallery paintings by old Masters with reference to their forming part of the National Gallery founded by Mr Corcoran. They embrace historic & [illegible word: elegant??] subjects, figures large as life brilliant in coloring & striking in design, xwarranted by experts in Rome, for the duly [sic duty] imposed on exportation. Some are a part of Cardinal Feschs Collection others were rescued from the burning palaces of Rome during the seige [sic siege] 1848

[Body of Letter 33]
Dr. Samson, of Columbia Co. Wath [?] contemplated a visit to N York these holidays and as he is proclaimed a connoisseur in art, I should be obliged if you would appoint him, or some one else to examine these famous gallery pictures, which I have been at great expense in having new back lined from which process they [illegible word] good cleaning but before putting them in order for hanging I am desirous of disposing of them. I can give long credit for payment if required, my first necessity is to have them consigned to good hands & appropriate quarters ere I leave for the far West. This being the business which called & detains me in N York I shall be glad of an early answer before I complete their repacking for Europe
Your's most respectfully
E.T. D' Aubigney
[2 illegible words] ie same as on back of letter noted above

[Letter 34]

In blue pencil: [F or J & A [Schneider?]]
[A printed 8 page catalog titled]:
Catalogo de Cuadros de Pintura Coleccion de J F
Mexico
Imprenta de M. Murguia, portal del Aguila de Oro
1866
[page 2 unnumbered] Need to check the list below
Berghem [sic Berchem?]
F. Wouvermann
Verschauring[?]
Wienants [? sic Wijnants]
H. Vernet

[Fluggen? with umlaut over ‘u’ probably]
A. Carraci
Rubens
Ottman or Ottmar Mygen[?]
Noél Coypel
D. Velasquez
Largilliaire [sic Largilliere]
Eglon van der Neer
Fr Frank el viejo
Fr Frank el Hijo
Mendosa
Valleja
J. del Paez [sic José de Páez]
Rueleis [?]
Patr. Maslet [?]
Carlos Dolci
F^r^ Ribera
P. de Cortona
Lucas Jordan [sic Luca Giordano]
Agellini
Arellano [?]
Guercino
Brasch [ie Giacinto Braschi?]
Albano
Palma (vechia) [sic Palmavecchio]
Lingelbach
Juan [?] Both
2 illegible names
Tomas Wyk
Jimeno [?]
Memling

[Upside down on page 8:]
In blue pencil: Schneider
In black pencil: [F. & A Schneider Jan. 1870 Offering pictures]

[Letter 35]
[Back of Letter 35]

[Wood & Co]
[Wm E. Wood & Co.
Jany. 14 th 1870
Furnish apparatus to Bid to heat The Art Gallery--

[Back Letter 35]
Registers, and everything pertaining to Heating apparatus. the material to be the best quality and the work done in the most approved and workmanlike manner : and guaranteed to be successfu[l] for the sum of. Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred & Seventy Five Dollars. $7875.

One third of the amount to be paid us when ^ all the materials are on the ground
One third when the Apparatus is fired and Radiators filled with Steam
And balance when the work is complete and approved by Yourself or any one you may suggest [sic]. Hopeing [sic] the above may meet with your approbation we are yours Respe^{t}
Wm E. Wood & Co.

[Front Letter 35 printed heading]
[Letter head printed text using multiple fonts on lined note paper as follows]:
[At left in illusionistic frame with trefoil rinceau]:
Manufacturers of the
American Kitchen
and
European Range,
Also Agents for
Griffith's
Archimedian Ventilators.
--And--
Tuttle & Bailey's
Registers and Ventilators

[To right of this also in multiple fonts]:

Office of Wm. E. Wood & Co.
Manufacturers of
Gold's Improved Patent Steam and Water Heaters,
For Warming and Ventilating Private Residences and Public Buildings,
Hot Air Furnaces, American Kitchen and other Ranges,
Heat, Cooking and Fire Place Stoves,
Tin Roofing and Terra Cotta and Metal Chimney Caps, Etc.
Wm. E. Wood. No. 375 W. Baltimore Street,
Chas. J. Wood. Baltimore, [date month and day following in pen]: Jan 12th [first 3 numerals printed text]: 186 [6 is struck through in pen and the following 2 numerals written in]: 70

[Front Letter 35]

Mr. Wm W. Corcoran

Dear Sir,
We propose to heat the Corcoran Art Gallery Washington D.C. by our Indirect Radiators placed in Chambers in the Cellar and fed by fresh air from out of doors. The heat to be carried to the diferent [sic] apartments through the flews [fluws?] [sic flues] now in building, and Registers to controle [sic] the same. The passages will be heated by Ornamental Direct Radiators with Stops to controle [sic] the steam. The whole to be fed by a Wraught Iron Retirn [sic Return] flew Boiler with all the necessary appliances. The capacity of which will be Thirty Horse power. The size of Boiler will enable us to work it at a very low pressure.

We propose to erect Boiler, Radiators, Pipeing, Valves, Brickwork, Carpenterwork, [see back of letter transcribed above]

[Letter 36]

[Back of Letter 36 written 90° to actual letter text]

In blue pencil: [Ménard]
In red pencil: (36)
In black ink:
[Mrs. Edmund Ménard
Feby -- 1870
Offering “Hercules Choice”]
In black pencil: [Als.]

[Back Letter 36 end of text]

- nience - directing to -
Mrs. Edmond [Edward?] Ménard, care of
L.D. Champl[ain?] Esq. [illegible word:?Room?] 21.
1-7 - Broadway, New York City -

[Front Letter 36]
[Note that the seemingly extraneous dashes are actually meant to serve as crosses for the letter ‘t’]
New York City -
Feb 1870-
[overwritten on diagonal in black ink: Feb 1870]

Mr. Corcoran
The pleasant recollection of an acquaintance with you, (when I was a young lady, & a guest of my dear old friend Senator Benton some years ago,) encourages me to address you now more ~~as~~[?] a friend than a stranger, although I fear you have long ago forgotten me.

Since those days, many changes have taken place, & ~~through them~~ unfortunate circumstances, during the last few years, have reduced me from luxury & affluence, to absolute want & poverty. I have heard of your love of the fine arts, & your magnificent gift to the City of Washington in the shape of a fine art building, to which

[Body Letter 36]
I have also heard, you intend to contribute some pictures. The object of my letter is to call your attention to a picture of mine, which I wish dispose of, as I am greatly in need of money, consequently, I am willing to part with it in most reasonable terms, & will abide by your judgement as to its value feeling assured you will do what is just & right.
The picture I should judge, is about four feet high & five wide. It is called "The choice of Hercules", between Wisdom & Pleasure, or Virtue & Vice.
It is evidently very old, I think an original, & has been pronounced very fine by several artists of note. To any one who fancies the picture, & who has the independence to rely upon his own good taste & judgement it will be of great value for merits of its own irrespective of__ its <u>want</u> of the <u>name</u> <u>of an "old master"</u> attached, which is frequently the only merit many highly prized pictures possess. The picture is in New York City, & I will take great pleasure in showing it to you, or to any one you may select to look at, & value it.
Pardon me Mr. Corocoran for thus [illegible word:s[]cir[]m[]ianly] intruding upon you, but my needy circumstances, must be my apology. I have only to add that should you take my picture, you will not only have it in your power to make a valuable contribution to the Washington Art Gallery, but you will be doing a great charity, to one who will ever hold your kindness in most grateful remembrance. Be good enough to let me hear from you, at your earliest conve- [see above for end of Letter 36]

[Letter 37]

[Back Letter 37]
[Written 90° to text of letter:]
In blue ink: [D'Aubigney]
In red ink: (37)
In black ink: [Eliz. D'Aubigney
Feby. 15th 1870
In relation to Gallery of pictures, which she offers for sale-]

[Front Letter 37]
11-3 - East 14th St
Next Steinways
Care of Mrs. Arnold
N.Y. City
[Written on diagonal over the word City above "Feb 17"]

Feb. 15

Dear Sir
May I venture on your kind attention, in reference to y^r letter last December, which gave me hopes of taking into consideration the purchase of my ^ art gallery from Rome; for the Corcoran Institute or National Gallery. You stated that in the space of three months the committee should be organized for the purchase or reception of pictures. Mine being large classic paintings by the best old masters I am anxious to see them well installed before I leave N.Y. and am only waiting the decision of yr [sic: your] plans on

[Letter 37 Body]
with regard to them. If inconvenient to close immediate purchase I can wait the requisite time. My first aim is to secure an immediate appropriate resting place, to be paid later if that is an object of inducement to receive the pictures, which being too large for parlor pictures, are most suitable for galleries. They came from palatial galleries and churches of Rome twelve of them are 6 7 8 & 9 feet figures life size the Death of Seneca with his disciples. The Death of Queen Jezebel. Marriage of St. Catharine. Marriage of the Virgin. [illegible 4 l letter word ink blot over first character?] In case of yr acceptance of them at a fair valuation at credit if taken soon I could [ink blot obscures first letter 'c' or 'w'] have them cleaned & refreshed fit for hanging which will occupy some weeks. As I am only halting in N. York for yr answer on this matter I shall be most grateful to learn something early on the matter and submit the pictures for examination as they are anxiously warehoused waiting -- Pray Sir believe me with all respect tho in haste your most obliged Eliz. DAubigney
The or De [Ha[2 illegible letters]i] Isabey

[Letter 38]

[Back Letter 38]

In blue ink: [Maguire]
In red ink: [(38)]
In black/brown ink: [M. M Maguire
Balto. [sic Baltimore] Febr. 21.1870
Asking if Artists can copy and study.]

[Front Letter 38]

Baltimore Feb. 21. / 70
[written on a diagonal through the date: 3d March]

Sir,
I am told that artists are to be allowed to copy, or study the pictures belonging to your collection. If any regulations concerning them have been yet made I would be glad if you would inform me of them if it would not inconvenience you too much to oblige me.

With respect
M. M. Maguire
No. 3 Cathedral St.

[Letter 39]

[Back Letter 39]
[note: no entry in the ledger for this letter should be on this page:
In blue ink: [D'Aubigney]
In red ink: [(39)]
In brown ink: [Elizabeth D'Aubigney
March 10 th 1870
Writes about collection of pictures--]

[Back Letter 39]
I can assure you [?illegible word] these paintings have been deemed [among?] the finest ever let out of Rome or brought to N York, but as their dimensions are [too?] large for family rooms, they are [?especially] gallery pictures. Where they make finer figure than smaller series. -- I look anxiously for yr permission to submit my collection for examination where and to whom? And with many apologies for my intrusion. I beg Sir to subscribe myself most respectfully yours, Elizabeth [illegible perhaps first attempt at:D'Aubigney??] D'Aubigney

[Front Letter 39]
Mar 10
Gibson's Studios, cor. 13th St.
& Broadway
[written on diagonal 12[?] May]

Dear Sir,

Having written you last winter on the subject I pray you forgive my importunity, but a gentleman from Washington informs me that the Corcoran Gallery is an established fact I am also aware that Mr Barlow of Pennsylvania Av, has lately bought from the recent sales in N York City a very large number of pictures for the Corcoran Gallery (now National) May I ask Sir the favor of yr consideration of the Collection I have hoarded up in N York in the hope of its appropriation by Yr National Gallery, or will you please inform me how I can obtain a hearing and my collection an examination with reference to its acceptance? If Mr Barlow is the critic & esteemer, I fear he has too many irons of his own in the fire // [?maybe: !!] Also the infinitely less expert, [ta??] picture speculator Humphrey[s?] I hear belongs to the hanging committee? In these cases I presume they alone will furnish all the material. My paintings have never passed thro any sale room in U.S. or Europe!! I brought them from Roman palaces & Oratories; with choice articles of [tic ?illegible word] and lent them for a time, to a charitable institution in N York I have been at an expense of [?2 or 7]00 $ for having them re-lined and paid an enormous duty for export privilege

in Rome also for impost here. They are recognised master pieces. Indeed one (5 feet by 7) is a marvel of Michael Angelo and an amateur gave an eloquent pulpit lecture on its merits, as evidencing self abnegating life of the Essenes - the subject being Mary of Egypt consoled by St Zozimo
---
The Death of Queen Jezebel in presence of Isaach [?] & the Mob is a masterpiece declared by Luca Giordano
---
Also Marriage of St Catherine by Annibal Carracci

Last Supper by Bassano

The Death of Seneca is a group worthy of classic halls
also
The Cyclops as represented in 2d book of "Odessey" [sic]

A fine view of port of Genoa by Fidanza and 6 other large gallery pictures

[Letter 40]

[Back Letter 40]

[In blue ink:] [Weightman]
[In red ink:] [(40)]
[In black/brown ink:] [Louisa S. Weightman March 11th 1870 Wants to sell a picture for $1000. [in pencil underlined in pen] or $1500--]
[Note that the digitized file contains 2 separately addressed letters by the same person]

[Front Letter 40 Paper has embossed gothic script capital letter "W" at top of each lined page]
[written partly over the embossed "W" between lines: ans--14th]
Washington March 11th/70

Mr Cochoran [sic]
Sir,
I take the liberty of addressing to you a few lines on the subject of an old and valuable painting I have in my possession. It is one family owned by my grandfather. The late Richard [I. or S.] Corfe[?] Esq. It has become necessary for me to part with it; and knowing your fondness for pictures I continue to hope you may become its purchaser. I know nothing of pictures myself but have always been led to suppose it worth from one thousand (1000) to fifteen hundred dollars ($1500) I now beg that you will allow my brother to bring it up for your inspection, and thereby greatly oblige. Yours Respectfully

Louisa S. Weightman. [This may be Louisa Stillwagon or Stelwagon Weightman wife of William Weightman born in Pennsylvania August 14, 1823]

[Back of next addressed Letter]
[In blue ink:[[Weightman]
[In black ink:] Miss Louisa S. Weightman
March 14th 1870]

[Front of next addressed letter]
Washington March 14th [March is overwritten in black ink on diagonal: 17 March]
Wm W. Corcoran Esq.
Dear Sir,
Your kind note has been received and I hasten to thank you for your kindness in offering to lay my note before the board and to ask you what time will probably elapse before I can hope for an answer from them.
Very sincerely
Louisa S. Weightman
223 [D str?] [sic: D Street]